THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Out of a total available utilisable water of 1142 billion cubic metres in the country, the utilisation of water (surface and ground) for irrigation purposes (1994-95) is 501 billion cubic metres. Utilisable water has been assessed basin-wise and not State-wise.

(b) Irrigation Potential (capacity) created in Gujarat during the last five years and the amount spent thereon are as under :

Year	Irrigation Potential (Capacity) Created (In Thousand hectares)	Expenditure (Rupees in Crores)
1991-92	44.00	690.8
1992-93	50.15	454.1
1993-94	36.40	483.8
1994-95	49.93 (anticipated)	586.0 (anticipated)
1995-96	54.80 (anticipated)	585.9 (anticipated)

[English]

Border Trafficking in Children

2420. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1427 dated July 22, 1996 regarding border trafficking in children and state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to have some bilateral arrangements with Nepal and Bangladesh to curb across the border trafficking in children;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nepal and India have an open border and the movement of people from one country to the other is not regulated by official agencies. In the case of Bangladesh, existing immigration laws regulate the movement of all persons, including children.

Though there are no bilateral agreements on the issue, Government are taking steps to curb the social evil of trafficking in children. Law enforcement agencies in the countries concerned are coordinating their efforts to handle the problem.

Obsolete Machine/Under Staff in Blood Bank

2421. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Obsolete machines and under staff plague blood bank" appearing in the Statesman dated September 6, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein, and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the inspection by the Drug Control Officials of Delhi Government on 9th September, 1996 the following deficiencies were noticed :

(i) There was shortage of technical staff in the Blood Bank.

(ii) The refrigerators were not functioning.

(iii) Out of three, two centrifuge machines were out of order.

(iv) Blood tests were not being done at the laboratory of the Blood Bank.

(c) The Blood Bank has been strengthened by posting more technical staff, nurses and attendants. There are two walk-in-coolers for blood storage and issue. Steps are being taken to repair the Blood Bank refrigerator. Other machines like water bath and centrifuge machine are available in the Department of Blood Bank adjoining Testing Laboratory. No blood is issued without performing mandatory laboratory tests.

Expansion of Viswa Bharati

2422. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the financial problem related to expansion plan of the activities of the facilities of 'Viswa Bharati', Shantiniketan;

(b) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take to support the cause of Viswa Bharati;

(c) whether any modern method has been found to preserve and protect the original Scripts, Songs, Instruments, Paintings of Tagore in Viswa Bharati; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b). Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, has sent a proposal for establishment of 'VISVASIA', a Centre for the study of Asian Civilisations. As, however, the proposal is silent about specific terms of reference and the requirement of funds for the project, the University has been advised to have a detailed project report prepared to enable the Government to proceed further into the matter.